**NUMICON CASE STUDY**

Queen’s Park Academy

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**School Profile**

Year 3 Teacher: **Emma Bolton**  
Town: **Bedford**  
LA: **Bedford Borough**  
Pupils on roll: **498**  
Ofsted: **Good, May 2012**  
Free School Meals: **22.4%**  
English as an Additional Language: **89.5%**

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**How long have Queen’s Park Academy been using Numicon?**

Queen’s Park Academy started using Numicon just over two years ago. They have added to their bank of Numicon resources in subsequent years.

**Why did they choose to use Numicon?**

Emma Bolton explains that Numicon appealed to the school because ‘there was an interest and focus on the visual representation of maths. Numicon offered us various opportunities to develop this.’

**How do teachers find the teaching resources?**

Numicon is used throughout the school, with all year groups, as well as for intervention. Emma says that the teaching resources ‘are clear and provide structure’, and adds that ‘our TAs have used them in a variety of ways.’

**How is Numicon used for assessment?**

Queen’s Park Academy have developed assessment using Numicon models. Emma points out that this assessment is ‘in written form but also through conversations with learners.’ The school plan to continue to develop this further in the coming academic year.

**What has been the trend of improvement since using Numicon?**

Queen’s Park have seen ‘an upward trend in attainment across the school since Numicon was introduced. Our introduction of guided maths (a time where the resources can be explored and talking is promoted) is a further element of our whole school offer.’ Ofsted have noted the ‘rising standards’ in mathematics.

**What do pupils think of Numicon?**

Emma tells us that ‘the children enjoy Numicon a great deal! The way the resources look and feel appeals to different types of learner. It is a flexible resource that lends itself to fostering links between different areas of mathematics.’

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This case study has been published with kind permission and help from Emma Bolton, Queen’s Park Academy.

Find out more at: www.oxfordprimary.co.uk
**Numicon and Pupil Premium at Queen’s Park Academy**

**Which Numicon resources have they spent their Pupil Premium on?**
Queen’s Park Academy have used their Pupil Premium funding to buy Numicon resources for every classroom. Their focus was ‘on making maths resources accessible.’

**How did they make that decision?**
Emma explains: ‘In the first year we bought a core set of resources and this has been added to in subsequent years.’ She adds that the school also did a resource audit to help determine what was needed. We saw a need to use Numicon higher up in the school during this audit and bought resources to help with this.’ The school used research to inform their decision, which was also supported by their Lead Maths Teacher, who is considering mathematical representation as part of her Master’s study.

**How are they measuring effectiveness?**
Queen’s Park measure effectiveness through ‘learning walks and observations.’ Emma adds that staff have also completed CPD encouraging the use of resources that represent maths visually.

**What impact have they seen?**
Emma explains that ‘observations have seen outstanding learning. Children are using the resources in a variety of ways.’

**What do Queen’s Park Academy feel are the benefits of buying resources with Pupil Premium over other options?**
For Queen’s Park, ‘spending on Numicon is one of the many different things we do with our Pupil Premium.’ The school have also invested in small group tuition and school trips. Emma explains that they chose to spend some of their funding on Numicon because, ‘we believe it’s a sustainable resource that can be used year on year and the training that we put into place has up-skilled teachers.’